

### Author's Choices in an Extended Text:

Exploring Twain's Textual Structure, Story Elements, Social Commentary and Theme Development

**EQ:** How do an author's choices in textual structure and story elements contribute to the purpose and themes of the novel?

**Directions:** To prepare to answer the essential question, use the provided graphic organizer to review the novel's textual structure, story elements, social commentary, and theme development.

An **episodic novel** is a narrative composed of loosely connected incidents, each one more or less self-contained, often connected by a central character or characters. It is one way of constructing a plot. As you read the novel, pause at the end of each episode and review key points:

1. Who is in the episode?
2. What happens throughout the episode?
3. Where does the episode take place in the novel (describe setting, page number)?
4. When does the episode take place in the novel (previous episode, following episode)?
5. Why does Mark Twain include this episode in the novel (connect to social commentary, theme development)?

Plot Episode	Chapters	Participating Characters	Summary  <i>Refresh your memory by writing a 1-2 sentence summary of this episode.</i>	Social Commentary/ Theme Development  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What aspect of society is Twain highlighting?</li> <li>• What THEME stem does this develop or reinforce?</li> </ul>
Huck's Home Life	1-4			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Tom Sawyer's Gang	2-3			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Arrival of Pap Finn	5-7			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Jackson Island/ Sarah Williams	8-11			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Walter Scott	12-13			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
King Solomon Fog/Cairo— Huck's Trick on Jim	14-15			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

Small Pox	16			• • •
Shepherdsons and Grangerfords	17-18			• • •
King and Duke	19-20			• • •
Colonel Sherburn and Boggs (King and Duke)	21-22			• • •
Royal Nonesuch (King and Duke)	22-23			• • •
Peter Wilks (King and Duke)	24-30			• • •
Huck's Big Moment	31			• • •
Aunt Sally's Farm (Huck's Reentry)	32-33			• • •
Evasion Sequence	34-43			• • •

How does an author's choice concerning how to structure specific parts of an extended fiction text contribute to overall meaning?